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## Bill would fight dangerous trend in identity theft

*Law enforcement and Assembly Majority Leader join forces to fight mail theft and personal information trafficking.*

**(GLENDALE, CA)** – Legislation by Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer unveiled in March would combat a dangerous trend in identity theft by arming local police officers with the tools they need to stop these criminals.

*"We are sending a message to this new breed of criminals who make millions rummaging through our mailboxes and trash cans without fear of prosecution. Your crime spree is over."*

*--Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer*

California had a reported 45,175 victims of identity theft in 2005, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in this growing crime trend. With protections increasing against criminals who steal credit card numbers or tamper with ATM machines, criminals are turning more and more to individuals' trash cans and mailboxes to steal personal information. In turn, these criminals are trafficking this information for money.

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## Frommer calls for ban on push-pull trains

*Assembly Majority Leader releases report as Chairman of Special Committee on Rail Safety.*

**(GLENDALE, CA)** – Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer joined the victims and victims' families of last year's Glendale Metrolink derailment to release a report on rail safety calling for California transit authorities to stop push-pull operations of passenger trains.

"There is no doubt in my mind that push-pull configuration is a killer," Frommer said. "Anyone who says it is not a danger is in denial. It's time to put an end to this practice."

At 6 a.m. on January 26, 2005, a commuter Metrolink train crashed into Glendale, killing 11 people and injuring nearly 200. The crash occurred when the train collided with a parked truck on the tracks and derailed, causing one of the worst accidents in the country's recent history.



In response to the crash, Frommer requested that the Assembly Special Committee on Rail Safety be created. The committee held a hearing to focus on Metrolink's practice of using push-pull configuration, the practice of placing the heavy locomotive at the rear of the train, where it then

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Because mail theft is under federal jurisdiction (United States Postal Inspection Service), local law enforcement can not help prosecute these criminals. Meanwhile, the postal service is overwhelmed with high priority organized theft rings and is unable to help individuals who are violated.

Joined by the Glendale Police Department, Frommer's unveiled the **Personal Information Trafficking & Mail Theft Prevention Act of 2006**, will give California, rather than just the federal government, the authority to better protect its citizens from mail theft.



Specifically, the bill would:

- Create a new section under the penal code specifically making mail theft a misdemeanor or felony depending on the offense.
- Make personal information trafficking, or the selling of that information for the purposes of fraud, a felony.
- Allow prosecution of identity theft cases to take place in the county where the victim resides, rather than where the crime occurs, to lessen the hardship on victims. ♦

### Workers' comp fraud Web site now available

A new Web site, mandated by Frommer's 2004 legislation has been created to fight workers' compensation fraud. The site posts a detailed listing of employees or employers that have been convicted of committing workers' compensation fraud. The listing includes the name of the perpetrator, amount of money defrauded and what punishment was given.

"Cracking down on workers' compensation fraud is the key to lowering compensation rates," Frommer said. "This Web site will be a powerful tool to deter scofflaws cheating the system up to \$3 billion each year."

To visit the site, go to [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov).

pushes the lighter passenger cabs as it heads one way on the track and pulls the lighter passenger cabs on the way back. There are allegations that pushed trains are more likely to derail because the lighter passenger cabs in the front can be pushed off the tracks more easily.

The report released states that "[w]hile the Federal Rail Administration may be comfortable with the existing configuration of the push-pull mode ... information coming from the FRA makes it difficult to take comfort in their position."

California is one of six states that continues to rank as the worst in rail safety based on the number of accidents and fatalities at public grade crossings.

Frommer recommended that California transit authorities cease the push operations of trains within the next three years. In addition, Frommer's recommendations include restricting occupancy in the first car of trains, installing gates at gate crossings to keep cars from driving onto the tracks, installing surveillance systems to oncoming trains and earmarking \$500 million of Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed infrastructure bond to remove dangerous at-grade crossings in California. ♦

## FROMMER HOSTS TOWN HALL MEETING IN SILVERLAKE

Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer hosted a town hall for the Silverlake, Atwater Village, Eagle Rock, Glassell Park and Greater Griffith Park communities.

Residents and Frommer discussed the state budget, legislative issues and the impending California infrastructure bond, which would set aside millions of dollars for transportation, housing, education and air quality.



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## Woman of the Year for 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District Honored

Cathy Saliba, resident of Toluca Lake, was chosen as this year's Woman of the Year for the 43<sup>rd</sup> District of the California State Assembly.

Among her many contributions to the community, Saliba gives up much of her time to serve as a director for the Easter Seals summer camp for physically challenged children and adults and the director for the California YMCA youth and government program. She is a former director of the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles and a former organizer for the Friends of the Los Angeles River.

She is also currently an elected member of the Toluca Lake Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and has been a resident of Toluca Lake for 24 years.



## Frommer calls for audit of First 5 Commission California

Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer and state Senator Dave Cox (R-Fair Oaks) have requested that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee audit the First 5 California Children and Families Commission's spending practices and contracting procedures.

"We need to ensure the proper use of state assets so that we can maximize support for the critical programs provided by First 5," Frommer said. "This commission uses hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars for invaluable children's programs and smoking cessation efforts, and we must ensure that none of those funds are wasted."

Recent news reports have raised several questions regarding the spending and contracting procedures of the First 5 California Children and Families Commission. The commission allegedly awarded a no-bid contract to a public relations firm that is expected to have a total value of \$62 million over the life of the contract. In addition, it has been reported that the commission's entire mass media budget last year was spent on preschool advertisements, with none set aside for its other programs, raising allegations that the commission used state resources to campaign for Proposition 82.